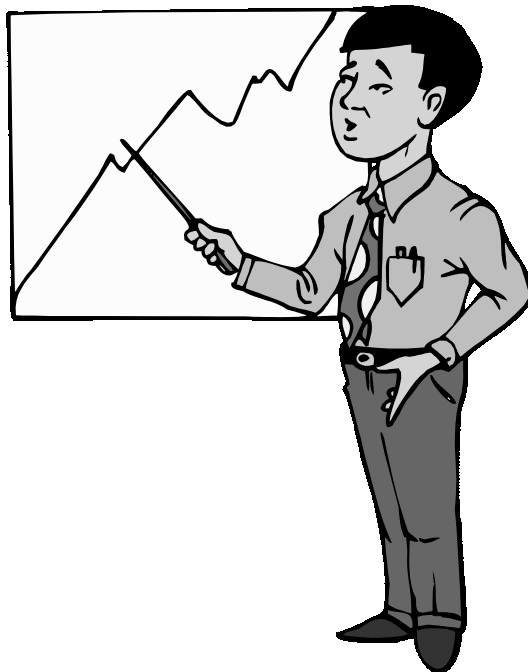


Asian and Pacific Islander Substance Abuse: Recent Research



Publication No. (ADP) 02-3649

**Resource Center
State of California
Alcohol and Drug Programs
1700 K Street
First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814**



(800) 879-2772 (California Only)

(916) 327-3728

FAX (916) 323-1270

TTY: (916) 445-1942

Internet: <http://www.adp.ca.gov>

E-Mail: ResourceCenter@adp.state.ca.us

Recent Research: Asian and Pacific Islander Substance Abuse

Asian and Pacific Islanders have been the subject of little research when compared to other U.S. racial and ethnic groups. The studies that have been done indicate that drug abuse treatment services are underutilized by Asian and Pacific Islanders when compared to the local population proportions. These studies have also shown that this is a diversified group, so that generalizations about this main group may not apply to individual subgroups. Except where noted, data is from the California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDs).

- The California Alcohol and Drug Data System (CADDs) shows that the 6,055 Asian and Pacific Islanders entering treatment comprised just 2.2% of the total treatment admissions in California for FY 2000/2001.
- The Asian and Pacific Islanders entering treatment in California were slightly younger than the general treatment population. 64% were less than 35 upon entering treatment, compared to 49%, and 13% were under the age of 18 as compared to only 7% of the general population.
- The drug of choice for Asian and Pacific Islanders is definitely methamphetamine, with 33% of this group listing this as their primary problem, followed by alcohol at 19%, heroin at 17%, and marijuana at 15%. Overall statistics had heroin listed most often with 32%, then alcohol – 25%, methamphetamine – 18 %, and cocaine/crack at 11%.
- Three surveys of high school students indicated that Asian and Pacific Islanders reported less alcohol use than other ethnic groups.
- Only 17% of the Asian and Pacific Islanders reported injecting their drugs, as opposed to 32% of the general population. Only 20% had used needles in the past year, as compared to 36% of the general population.
- Asian and Pacific Islanders reported using drugs less frequently, only 40% reported daily use, where more than 56% of the general population reported using daily. 30% of Asian and Pacific Islanders reported no drug use in the month previous to admission, as opposed to only 20% of the others.
- Age of first use is similar to the general population's statistics, half of Asian and Pacific Islander users were under the age of 21 when they first started to use drugs, and one-quarter were under the age of 18. The amount of education is also similar to the general population's statistics.
- CADDs data also show that of the 6,055 Asian and Pacific Islanders entering treatment in California, 40% were referrals from the Criminal Justice System, and only 32% were individual referrals. This compares to the 27% of the general population that was referred from the Criminal Justice System, and 47% that were individual referrals.

- The preference for methamphetamine is supported by National Drug Intelligence Center (NDIC) reports that methamphetamine is now the drug of choice in Southeast and East Asia. NDIC also reports that a large quantity of methamphetamine is being produced in Asia and distributed in the U.S. by well-established Asian trafficking groups.
- Asian methamphetamine tablets or “Yaba” are being sent to Hmong/Mien communities in the Central Valley. Reports are that these tablets have already crossed ethnic lines and are finding favor outside the Asian community.
- Another form of methamphetamine, usually referred to as “ice,” is mostly manufactured by Korean criminal organizations. This form is very popular in Guam, Hawaii, and the Northern Marianas.

Works Cited

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use Among Asian American and Pacific Islander Students in California: Findings from a 1995 Survey*

National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)

May 9, 2000 <http://www.napafasa.org/APIATOD.htm> 4/16/02

CURRICULUM ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND OTHER DRUG USE

An Overview of Asian & Pacific Islander Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drug Use

<http://p2001.health.org/CTI06/curriculum.htm> 4/16/02